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## Castro's Big Achievement

By Henry Taylor



That yellow goo of morphine is the ransom deal dealt our fine narcotics bureau here in a drunken reverse.

Sen. Estes Kefauver's crime committee long ago identified Cuba as an international hub in the fiendish traffic. Much of this free delivery to Castro—highest quality—will come right smack back to the dope peddlers in the United States.

Shortly before I left Switzerland our American embassy, in co-operation with the superb Swiss police, impounded more than \$2 million in morphine in transit, carried in a single suitcase. This is how morphine money multiplies in the form Castro will cut it.

The whole ransom affair typifies Washington's news manipulation, culminating even in the President's Miami eulogy to the survivors themselves on Dec. 29. Speaking there, not only words were used as "weaponry." Hearts were used as well.

President Kennedy repeatedly stated, "This is being done by a private committee," while our Government was as much in it as in the Bay of Pigs affair itself. This is now a secret everybody knows.

But inside his office the determined Attorney General had—from the beginning—what he called the "wish list" from Castro. The Cuban drew up a crazy compilation. In totalling it to \$53 million he used mostly obsolete drug-house catalogues. He specified some drugs unobtainable here, many scientifically obsolete, and even dreamed up others that never existed.

His morphine feature, however, was the final clincher Castro demanded in his American blackmail. The Attorney General's opening explanation in soliciting each contribution was: "My brother made a mistake."

Why didn't our public servants simply perform on the straight-forward basis required by their official position? Congress specifically prohibited the use of taxpayers' money for ransom during the tractors-for-prisoners uproar. These officials could not do what they wanted to do and still come out in the open.

To date the Administration has even refused a list of items, quantities and costs, making all assessment by our public impossible. Congress should at least expose the tax gimmicks and inside bait authorized overnight after the Attorney General's reported "fella, get busy" word to Treasury Secretary Douglas Dillon, by a Government which is about to challenge every citizen's lunch nickel and Christmas cigar.

Moreover, Impeccable Cuban underground sources as close to Castro as his beard (for Castro's inner circle has been well penetrated) insist Castro's real win was not the \$53

million ransom at all. His eye was entirely on a reaffirmation of a non-invasion pledge.

Knowing negotiator James B. Donovan spoke for President Kennedy and his brother, Castro required and received this pledge as the basic requirement before allowing the invasion prisoners to leave. Castro asked Mr. Donovan, "What if President Kennedy repudiates you?" Mr. Donovan replied, "He won't."

In short, Castro has achieved his ambition as the communist leader of Latin America under a United States guarantee not to molest, or permit any neighbor to molest, Red Cuba's sovereignty.

This reaffirmed President Kennedy's guarantee thru United Nations Acting Secretary-General U Thant if the missiles were removed, still never admitted by Washington but extracted from the secret UN minutes of the initial U Thant-Castro meeting in Havana which U Thant's office confirmed to me as accurate.

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